

**Bloomfield Citizen.**

WEEKLY JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY  
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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from a general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social, as long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1906.

## Freakish Metemorphosis.

All the rules and safeguards that apply to the operation of a well-conducted street railway system are probably discarded somewhere in the office or waiting rooms of the Orange and Passaic Valley street railway, and theoretically the rules are in force in the operation of the road. In practice, however, the motormen appear to be allowed to follow a "go as you please" method, providing they do not lose time in making trips.

The motormen of the Croxton line appear to find great diversion in cutting each other off from sidings, and usually the motorman is more intent upon being first at a siding than upon anything else pertaining to his duties. The Orange Journal thus describes one of the recent feats of rival motormen:

"Tuesday morning there was a tie-up of the road during the rush hour and a closed car came down to the end of the line at Morris street and took on several passengers who had been waiting for it. While the motorman and conductor were changing the trolley and preparing for the return trip, an open car came over the turn-out and started down the single track for Morris street to head off the preceding car. The crew of the first car did the hustle act, and started back over the track when the second car got to Beach street. This made the open car men hustle also. They turned the trolley and assumed first place ahead of the closed car and then gathered up all the waiting passengers."

"Then the motorman of the closed car commenced to crowd the other motormen who had usurped his place on the line, and the open car man found the race was too swift for him at Highland avenue, and turned off the line at the turn-out there. This allowed the closed car to take the lead once more, but it kept all the passengers who had taken the car that came first to them waiting until the rearmost car with its light load of passengers took the lead, where it properly belonged. In other words, the passengers were needlessly delayed for several minutes while the two motormen went through a freakish and entirely unnecessary series of evolutions. In addition to that, the open car had not gone to the end of the line, and people who missed the open car had to wait for the third car instead of catching the car succeeding the open car, or briefly were kept waiting just twice as long as they should have been had the motorman of the second car run his vehicle to the end of the line."

## Nuisances.

Frequent complaints have been made in this town in regard to the soft coal nuisance, especially on the steam railroads passing through here, and petitions have been presented to the Town Council from time to time to abate the evil. One resident of the Fairview section declared that the soft coal nuisance was not only detrimental to his property, but was so bad on the Erie Railroad that one member of his family could not remain at home. If the Council has not the power to abate the growing nuisance, the courts certainly have, and we frequently chronicle the fact that they have come to the rescue of those afflicted with various kinds of nuisances. A case in point has just occurred in the vicinity of Plainfield, Union county. It appears that a legal contest has been waging for two years against Theodore Glaser of Alton, near Paulsboro, for maintaining a fertilizer factory which, it was claimed, was detrimental to health. A decision was rendered against Glaser last week, and he was fined ten dollars and costs of the trial by a jury of the peace. The suit was instituted by the officials of Fanwood township, and the verdict implies that Glaser must remove the factory, which is one of the largest of its kind in that section.

If the residents of this town who are continually asking the Council to abate the soft coal nuisance caused by the railroads would only apply to the courts for redress, something might be accomplished. Certainly there would be no harm in making the experiment.

## Musical Instruction.

Plans for instruction given at residence or at home. Terms reasonable. Miss Minnie Biscoe, No. 26 Almira street, Bloomfield.—Advt.

## In Field and Woodland.

To nothing does the proverb "To everything there is a season and a time," apply more truly than to nature's annual floral procession, which, beginning early in spring, ends only on the advent of frost and ice, in the shortening autumn days. Some families or species, claim our attention by reason of their abundance and showy color, for weeks before retiring, while others pass rapidly, or by reason of their inconspicuousness, or our lack of observation escape notice altogether. Just now seems to be a somewhat slack time in the floral display, with the great autumn exhibit of goldenrods and wild asters, still some weeks away, yet those who go far enough afield and into the shade of the woods, can even now find many things well worth the effort if they know where and how to look for them.

The present season, on account of its prevailing humidity, has caused an excessively rank growth of weedy vegetation, which has overgrown many woodland paths and makes it difficult and disagreeable to follow them. This is especially true where tick trolley borders the paths, which it does only too frequently, and in such situations it still makes one of the most conspicuous displays of color to be seen in an afternoon ramble. Its earlier flowers have already matured into tick-like seeds which stand in ranks and rows each side the path ready to attach themselves by their sharp hooks to any article of clothing to which they can cling and get free transportation. Yet its bright pink blossoms are still abundant, and no danger of race suicide threatens its extinction.

One plant now in blossoming season, its name probably not generally known, makes quite a display, occurring as it usually does in meadows, either on moist ground or shaded slopes; it is called horse balm, botanically Collinsonia Canadensis. (See Mrs. Dana's "How to Know the Wild Flowers," page 177.) Of water plants some flowers of pectoral weed, and many of arrow head may still be seen.

Another flower now in bloom and comparatively rare has no common name given, but is called by the botanists Polygala Sanguinea. It grows near moist places, and I have lately found associated with it the orchid called "ladies' tresses," just beginning to show its white petals, its season being September and October.

Near these also occurred some opening flowers of the turtle head. In nearly all moist grounds the conspicuous heads of the iron weed still catch the eye and a close observer may now and then see a belated monkey flower. Yellow and pink-flowered primroses, yellow and white bellflowers, and their bits of gold, the seed-bearing receptacles are crowding it closer and closer to the end of the flower spike. Wild carrot and honeysuckle with its allied species of eupatorium now hold a prominent place in many a view. Then, too, the maturing seeds of earlier species are still worthy of notice. Among those most interesting may be mentioned black, and white cohosh, Solomon's seal and false Solomon's seal, bellwort and nightshade, to say nothing of the stick-tight crowd which attach themselves to us and claim our attention whether or no.

Of course we do not here pretend to give a full list of what may now be seen or may be worth seeing. Probably very few who go out to view the handiwork of nature as shown in the flora of their locality, either see all the species they pass by, or are able to name those which do not the writer is far from claiming a place among them. In the hope that a few at least may be prompted to an ambition to make the unknown and uncertain list a dwindling one from year to year, these lines have been written. — F. F. UNDERWOOD.

## Belleville's Assessment.

Despite the fear of William Connolly, tax assessor of Belleville, that he had assessed the value of property in the township too high when he placed the total at \$5,150,000, the County Board of Taxation decided on Thursday that the figures are about right, as the result of an inspection of the assessor's books and of an estimate formed by a recent visit to the township. The board, therefore, refused to make any material reduction in the valuation.

"At the first meeting," said President Anderson of the county board, "we asked all the assessors what their percentage of increase had been over the previous year. Some said about fifty per cent, and some 100 per cent. Mr. Connolly left with the belief that he should jump his assessment about fifty per cent, and we found that his valuations this year were \$5,150,000. After he had left his book with us, he returned and asked leave to take it back, because he feared the valuations were excessive. That is why we decided to make a personal inspection of Belleville. We found conditions there about the same as in Bloomfield. Both are quiet places, and have little growth. We found some pieces over 100 years old, and that could be purchased cheap, but we feel that on the whole the valuations were no higher than they should be, so what changes we made were insignificant, and will not affect the tax rate."

**Church Services.**

In the Park Methodist Episcopal Church to-morrow evening Dr. Huribut will preach a sermon for Labor Day on "A Workman Needing Not to be Ashamed."

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